

Message Text

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33

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-13 /070 W

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R 080912Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7154

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9897

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, RP

SUBJECT: MURTOPO DELIVERS SUHARTO LETTER TO MARCOS RE SABAH

REF: MANILA 8054 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING ASEAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCE, INDONESIAN
PRESIDENTIAL AIDE ALI MURTOPO, WHO VISITED MANILA JUNE 29
TO APPROXIMATELY JULY 3, BROUGHT LETTER FROM SUHARTO TO
MARCOS URGING THAT GOP TAKE STEPS TO RENOUNCE SABAH
CLAIM, AS ALLEGEDLY PROMISED BY MARCOS TO HUSSEIN ONN
IN PRESENCE OF SUHARTO AT BALI ASEAN SUMMIT IN FEBRUARY.
MURTOPO HAD INTENDED TO DELIVER LETTER PERSONALLY BUT
WAS UNABLE TO DO SO SINCE MARCOS WAS IN LEYTE FOR CELE-
BRATION OF FIRST LADY'S BIRTHDAY. INSTEAD, HE LEFT
LETTER WITH INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR WHO DELIVERED IT.

2. IN HIS ROLE AS PATRON OF INDONESIAN CENTER FOR STRATEGIC
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AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSIS), MURTOPO ALSO DELIVERED

LECTURE ON ASEAN AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AT COUNTERPART PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY (PCAS) ON JULY 1. LECTURE, COUCHED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS, URGED GREATER ASEAN SECURITY COOPERATION. IT WAS WELL ATTENDED BY ASEAN DIPLOMATS AND PHILIPPINE MILITARY INCLUDING CONSTABULARY CHIEF GEN. RAMOS, AFP INTELLIGENCE CHIEF GEN. PAZ, AND PCAS THEORETICIAN COL. AL MONTE (WHO HAS BEEN KEEPING VERY LOW PROFILE SINCE DETHRONEMENT OF HIS ERSTWHILE LEADER, FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ALEX MELCHOR).

3. MURTOPO ENTOURAGE INCLUDED HIS ECONOMIC EXPERT, PROFESSOR PANG LAY KIM, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CSIS STAFFERS. PRESENCE OF PANG LAY KIM LENDS CREDENCE TO REPORTS THAT MURTOPO ALSO DISCUSSED MEASURES TO ACCELERATE ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH GOP OFFICIALS.

4. COMMENT: AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY, BOTH MALAYSIAN AND INDONESIAN DIPLOMATS IN MANILA HAVE BEEN INSISTING FOR SOME TIME THAT, DURING BALI SUMMIT, SUHARTO PRESIDED OVER MARCOS-HUSSEIN AGREEMENT TO DROP SABAH CLAIM, AND THAT PHILIPPINE SIDE HAS BEEN DELINQUENT IN CARRYING OUT ITS SIDE OF AGREEMENT. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS ALLEGATION HAS NEVER BEEN FULLY CONFIRMED. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION JAKARTA MAY BE ABLE TO GATHER REGARDING ACTUAL CONTENT OF SUHARTO LETTER. GIVEN FACT THAT GOP IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE INDONESIAN AND MALAYSIAN SUPPORT AT NEXT ISLAMIC SUMMIT (TO BE HELD IN LIBYA), AND GIVEN ADDITIONAL FACT THAT TUN MUSTAPHA DOES NOT SEEM TO BE MAKING A COMEBACK, IT WOULD SEEM TO SERVE GOP INTEREST TO MOVE FORWARD ON SABAH. WHETHER MARCOS WILL DO SO REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
SULLIVAN

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